



FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST  
**INTHEKNOW**

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**FAIRFAX**  
SINCERITAS LABORIS

As the 2018 victors, Fairfax were privileged to host the annual Sutton Coldfield Schools' Parliamentary Debating Competition on 7 March 2019. Two sixth form students from several local schools took part. The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP oversaw proceedings, which involved two schools proposing and opposing a motion under timed conditions and covering a wide variety of debates.



The standard of debates was excellent, with all students speaking eloquently and articulately. The judges deliberated at length and Arthur Terry were crowned champions for 2019.



The academy was delighted to host the event during its 60th year and look forward to taking part at Arthur Terry School during 2020.

Every year, Fairfax runs a 'Charity Week'. Each House identifies a charity and battles to see who can raise the most funds for their charity. Each House has a designated day to run their events.

Coventry pupils raised £583.53 for Cancer Research UK and Guide Dogs.

Stratford House raised £1055.56 for Crohn's & Colitis UK,

Kenilworth House's raised £522.71 for Make-A-Wish UK .

Warwick House's raised almost £500.00 for Teenage Cancer Trust.



**SMITH'S WOOD**  
ACADEMY

Over the past six months, five Year 9 pupils from Smith's Wood Academy have been involved in the AimHigher Plus 'Explore Berlin' project.

Many of these pupils had never travelled abroad before, been on a plane, taken a train or been to a restaurant. The AimHigher Plus project has consistently identified a lack of cultural capital as a barrier to higher education access. This international residential trip provided pupils with the opportunity to go outside of their comfort zones, broaden their horizons and develop cultural capital. The trip worked to develop essential personal attributes within the pupils, such as confidence, team building, independence and resilience.

Pupils have been involved in the Explore Berlin project since mid-November and attended 4 pre-trip sessions at Aston University which involved them learning about Berlin History, brushing up their German language skills and even completing an airport simulation to prepare them for their travels.

In February half-term the pupils headed off to Berlin for a week of exploring the city and visiting the Humboldt University of Berlin. Each evening they ate in a different restaurant and pupils tried new types of food including Italian, Turkish and traditional German cuisine.

The pupils had a fantastic time and learnt a lot about studying abroad and the opportunities open to them in the future. Pupils gained huge amounts of confidence and enjoyed the week meeting new people and socialising with others from different schools.

Last month pupils attended a celebration event at Aston University, where they were awarded certificates and their new title as 'AimHigher Plus International Study Ambassadors'. The pupils are now 'International Study Ambassadors' in their schools and will be sharing their experiences with others.



This year Erdington Academy has made a significant effort to engage pupils in activities beyond the classroom, in order to create lifelong memories. Equally, it is recognised that engaging pupil's in the academy community through a wide range of events and opportunities beyond the classroom, is crucial to ensuring pupils build on a shared belief. This in turn has a positive effect on achieving attendance and behaviour expectations.

To aid this development, House Participation Leaders have been introduced to work in each House with the specific role of supporting events and gathering momentum.

Uptake this term has again increased. The House Talent Shows were sell-outs, with over 200 pupils and staff watching the performances each day and a wide range of pupils performing in many differing ways. Following some fiercely competitive auditions, which showcased a range of talent, the judges chose five acts for their House finals. All pupils who took place in the auditions showed real ambition and received House points for their participation.

So - has Erdington got talent? Yes it has! It also has some very inspirational members of staff who never fail to motivate and go above and beyond for the pupils. The event itself raised £400 for the charities chosen by each House.

On Saturday 2nd March 2019, Erdington Academy were delighted to host one of the biggest events in the UK's edu-conference calendar: researchED Birmingham - a grassroots movement set up in 2013 by Tom Bennett, behaviour advisor to the Department for Education.

The aim is to raise research literacy in the teaching profession, create useful face-to-face communities, and create networks of collaboration and mutual support.



Erdington Academy are very proud of our pupils' contributions on the day, and all of whom were praised roundly for their fantastic efforts.

At Bournville, as is the case in all FMAT schools, there is a commitment to providing all pupils across the key stages with opportunities to widen their cultural experiences regardless of background. As a result, there is now an extensive range of activities running alongside the taught curriculum that all pupils are encouraged to participate in. This month alone, pupils in every year group have enjoyed a range of enrichment opportunities designed to enhance their subject knowledge or to improve their personal resilience through character education e.g. theatre and university visits; a training expedition to prepare for Duke of Edinburgh; a nine mile walk to raise money for Comic Relief; attendance at the Strive for Five maths conference; and, meeting a published author.

The feedback from pupils who have taken part in these activities has been overwhelmingly positive; for some a hidden talent is discovered, a passion ignited, or an ambition nurtured. For others the impact is less profound but nonetheless memorable and, as many of us can attest to, when recalling our schooldays, we rarely remember our history lessons with quite the same clarity as that day trip to Boulogne!



Primary pupils at Bournville are encouraged to be strong readers and to develop a love of reading regardless of their backgrounds or starting points. Therefore, it was unsurprising that the recent World Book Day event was a huge success, enjoyed by both children and staff.

The day began with all kinds of book characters arriving to morning assembly; children from Reception to Year 5 gathered together to share in the excitement of a shared literary experience. Mrs Randall showed pupils some of her favourite books from when she was in primary school and read a story from one of them. She then demonstrated how to write a story in 50 words and challenged pupils to write their own as part of their World Book Day House Challenge.



Throughout the rest of the day, pupils took part in various book related activities such as designing book covers, making book marks and creating new characters for stories. It was heart-warming to see and hear our Year 5 pupils reading aloud some firm favourites to spellbound Reception children during a shared reading afternoon in the library. It was a wonderful end to a day which showed how, in this technological age, the power of language and magic of story-telling is still very much in evidence at Bournville School.